

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NEAE-00 /075 W
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O 071140Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7541

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK,MILL,IR, US

SUBJECT: PAK INTEREST IN HELICOPTERS

REFERENCE: STATE 201775

1. BRIGADIER QAYOOM, DIRECTOR PAK ARMY AVIATION, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TODAY AT REQUEST OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ZIA. QAYOOM CARRIED LETTER FROM ZIA ASKING FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR A TWO MAN PAK ARMY AVIATION TEAM TO VISIT IRAN SOON TO EVALUATE BELL 214B HELICOPTER.

2. PAK ARMY IS INTERSTED IN BEEFING UP ITS HELICOPTER FORCE AND IS CONTEMPLATING ABOUT \$75 MILLION BUY. THEIR FIRST INCLINATION WAS TO BUY FRENCH, BUT THEY ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS AND ARE NOW VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING AMERICAN ORIGIN HELICOPTERS. IN LETTER, ZIA ASKS IF TEAM CAN VISIT IRAN TO CARRY OUT TRIALS ON THE HELICOPTER, BEGINNING BY SEPT 10 OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BELL IS TENTATIVELY PLANNING ON SENDING HELICOPTER AND TEAM TO PAKISTAN IN MID-OCTOBER
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FOR DEMONSTRATION. QAYOOM SAID THAT PAK ARMY WANTS

TO MOVE AHEAD SOONER, HOWEVER, AND CONSEQUENTLY WOULD
LIKE TO SEND THEIR TWO MAN TEAM TO IRAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. WE ASSUME CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION NOT NECESSARY
FOR SHORT EVALUATION VISIT BY PAK ARMY TO SEE AND FLY
THE BELL 214B, AS THIS CLEARLY NOT CLASSIFIABLE AS TRAINING.
ALSO, SINCE 214B SALE WOULD BE NON-CONTROVERSIAL, WELL
WITHIN GUIDELINES OF OUR ARMS SALES POLICY, AND A
LUCRATIVE CONTRACT FOR AN AMERICAN FIRM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING GO-AHEAD FROM DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHICH WE COULD PASS ON TO GENERAL ZIA. QAYOOM SAID THAT
PARTICULARS OF TRIP, ONCE PERMISSION OBTAINED FROM USG,
WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY PAK MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEHRAN.

5. QAYOOM ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF PAKISTANI PILOTS
WAITING IN IRAN TO BEGIN HELICOPTER TRAINING (REFTEL).
HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN THERE ABOUT TWO MONTHS ALREADY, AND
IF PERMISSION IS NOT FORTHCOMING, HE WILL HAVE TO CALL
THEM BACK. AMBASSADOR SAID WE WOULD CHECK ON STATUS AND
LET HIM KNOW. REFTEL STATES NOTIFICATION OF IRANIAN
PLAN TO TRAIN PAKISTANIS SENT HILL AUGUST 4. WE
CONSEQUENTLY ASSUME PERMISSION TO BEGIN TRAINING
PROGRAM WILL BE GRANTED SOON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
KNOWING WHERE THIS STANDS AS WELL SO WE CAN INFORM
GENERAL ZIA.
BYROADE

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